

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A system for treating a skin surface target comprising:

(a) an applicator containing at least two RF electrodes configured to be applied to the skin surface, so as to apply an RF current to a skin surface area located between the electrodes when the applicator is applied to the skin surface, the skin surface area containing at least a portion of the target;

(b) a temperature effector configured to create a temperature difference between the target and a skin surface surrounding the target such that the target is at a temperature that is at least 5C° higher than the surrounding skin surface.

2. (Original) The system according to Claim 1 wherein the temperature effector heats the target.

3. (Original) The system according to Claim 2 wherein the temperature effector comprises a light source configured to apply optical energy to the target.

4. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 1 wherein the temperature effector cools the surrounding surface tissue.

5. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 4 wherein the temperature effector comprises an irrigation unit

cooling a fluid and tubes for allowing the cooled fluid to flow near the surrounding skin surface.

6. (Currently amended) A method for treating a skin surface target comprising:

(a) creating a temperature gradient between the target and a skin surface surrounding the target such that the target is at a temperature that is at least 5C° higher than the surrounding skin surface; and

(b) applying RF energy to a skin surface area containing at least a portion of the target.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the temperature gradient is created by heating the target.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the target is heated by applying optical energy to the target with an intensity of about 5 to about 100 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup> for about 1 to 200 msec.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 56 wherein the temperature gradient is created by cooling the skin surface surrounding the target.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 9 wherein the surrounding skin surface is cooled by contacting the skin surface with a pre-cooled fluid.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the target is selected from the group comprising a vascular lesion, pigmented lesion, hair follicle, wrinkle and acne.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the RF energy has a power level of 5 to 200 W.

13. (Currently amended) A method for treating a skin surface target comprising :

(a) activating a temperature effector to create a temperature gradient between the target and a skin surface surrounding the target such that the target is at a temperature that is at least 5C° higher than the surrounding skin surface;

(b) terminating the activity of the temperature effector; and

(c) after said terminating step, applying RF energy to a skin surface area containing at least a portion of the target.

14. (Currently amended) A system for treating a skin surface target comprising:

an applicator containing at least two RF electrodes configured to be applied to the skin surface, so as to apply an RF current to a skin surface area located between the electrodes when the applicator is applied to the skin surface, the skin surface area containing at least a portion to the target;

a temperature effector configured to create a temperature difference between the target and skin surface surrounding the target such that the target is at a temperature that is at least 5C° higher than the surrounding skin surface; and

a processor coupled to said temperature effector and said RF electrodes and configured to sequentially activate said temperature effector, terminate the activity of said temperature effector, and then activate said RF electrodes.